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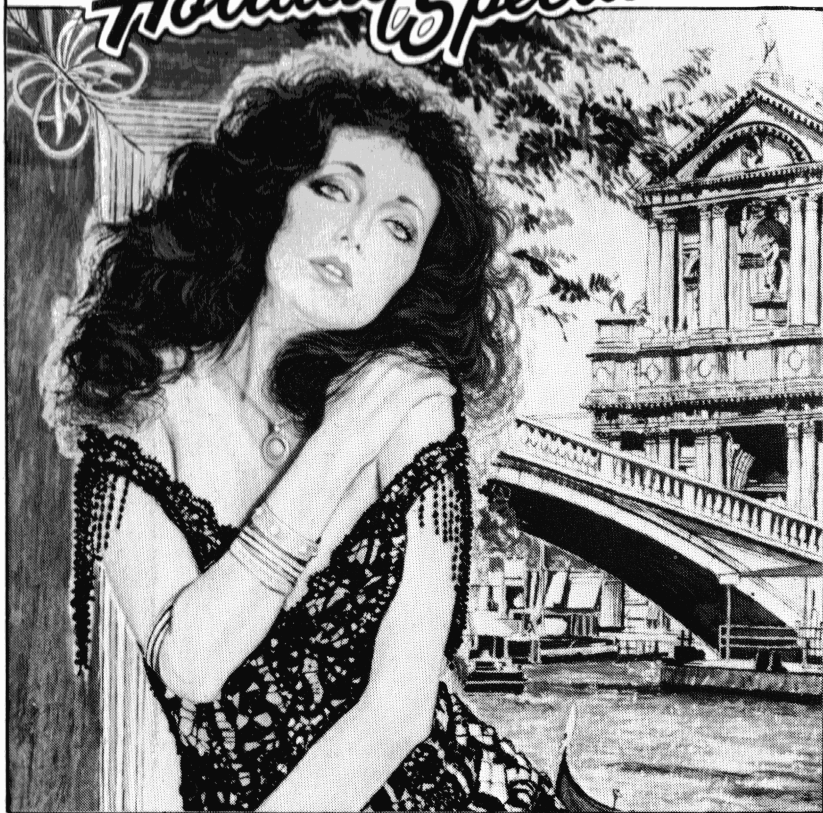
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TRUE LIFE

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Holiday Special

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...DON'T MISS IT

PARADISE ISLAND

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L.S.L.H.S. A



IN THE SLEEPY LITTLE GREEK TOWN OF ETHNOS, KATINA SKOROS LIVED ALL ALONE ON A SMALLHOLDING FROM WHICH SHE BARELY MADE A PROFIT

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

SHE MADE HER WAY TO THE POST OFFICE KEPT BY HER UNCLE WHO HAD SENT FOR HER

GREGOR SKOROS

IN FACT IF IT WEREN'T FOR UNCLE GREGOR I'D HAVE GONE CRAZY BY NOW. WHAT'S HE WANT ME FOR THIS TIME, I WONDER ?

IN HIS TIME GREGOR SKOROS HAD BEEN A FEARSOME BANDIT. BUT NOW HE WAS REFORMED - OR AT LEAST HE WAS TRYING TO BE

UNCLE, REALLY! READING PEOPLE'S LETTERS AGAIN!

SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF WORKING IN A POST OFFICE IF YOU DON'T ? AM I GLAD MY FATHER MADE ME GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN TO READ !

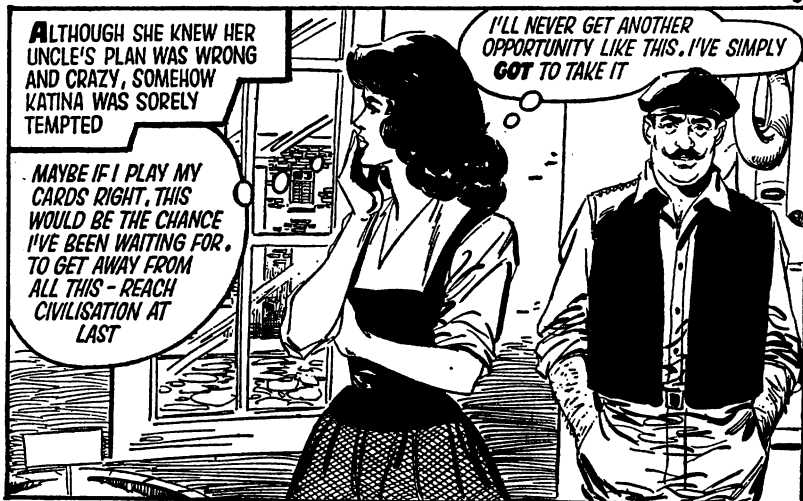




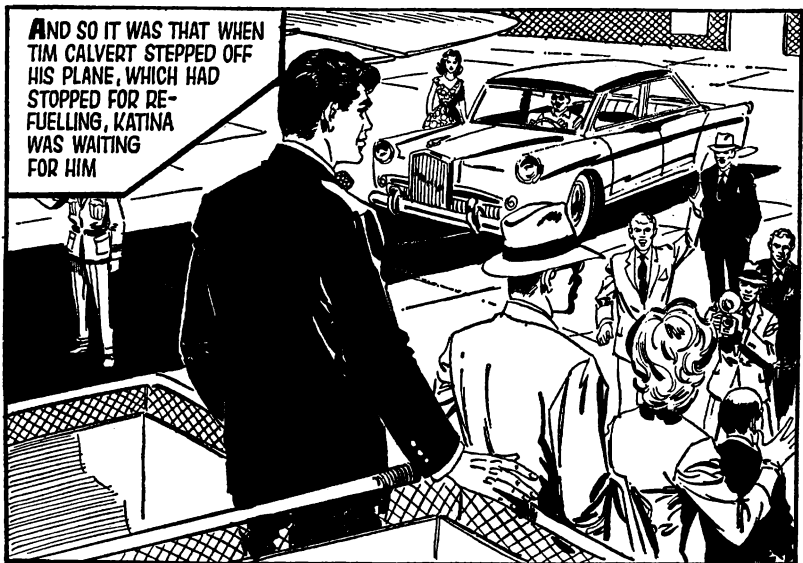
**ALTHOUGH SHE KNEW HER
UNCLE'S PLAN WAS WRONG
AND CRAZY, SOMEHOW
KATINA WAS SORELY
TEMPTED**

**MAYBE IF I PLAY MY
CARDS RIGHT, THIS
WOULD BE THE CHANCE
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
TO GET AWAY FROM
ALL THIS - REACH
CIVILISATION AT
LAST**

**I'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER
OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS. I'VE SIMPLY
GOT TO TAKE IT**



**AND SO IT WAS THAT WHEN
TIM CALVERT STEPPED OFF
HIS PLANE, WHICH HAD
STOPPED FOR RE-
FUELLING, KATINA
WAS WAITING
FOR HIM**



AS HER UNCLE POINTED HIM OUT, SHE TOOK ONE LOOK AND HER HEART SEEMED TO LURCH



SWALLOWING HARD, KATINA WALKED ACROSS TO MEET HIM

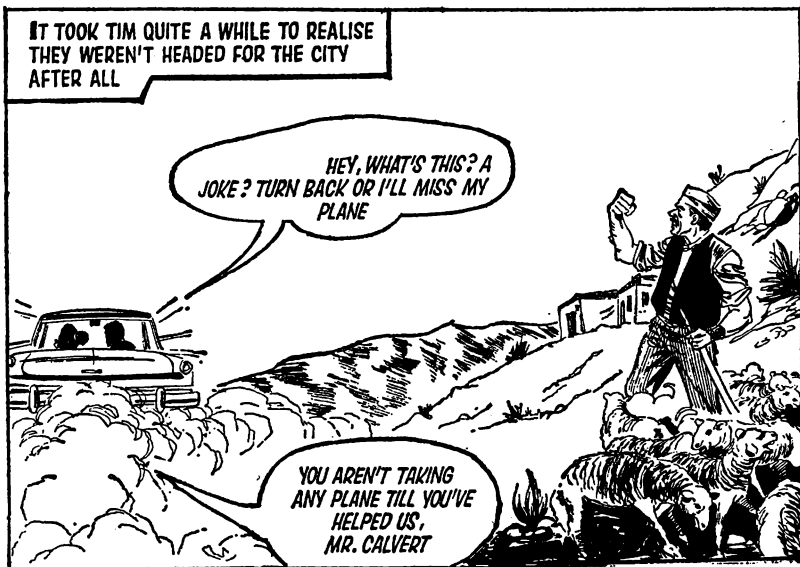
MR. CALVERT? YOUR CAR IS THIS WAY, SIR



BUT KATINA WAS WELL BRIEFED

QUITE SO, SIR. BUT YOU ARE REQUIRED URGENTLY AT THE CONSULATE





KATINA PULLED FROM HER BAG ONE OF THE RELICS OF **UNCLE GREGOR'S** MORE LAWLESS DAYS, THOUGH SHE FOUND HERSELF LONGING TO SAY THAT IT WASN'T LOADED



AS THEIR EYES MET, THE BITTERNESS IN **TIM'S** SEEMED TO STAB HER TO THE HEART



AFTER HOURS OF **UNCLE GREGOR'S** RECKLESS DRIVING OVER ROUGH ROADS THEY ARRIVED IN **ETHNOS** AT LAST





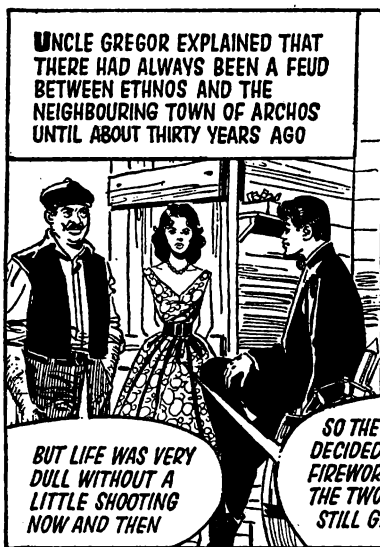


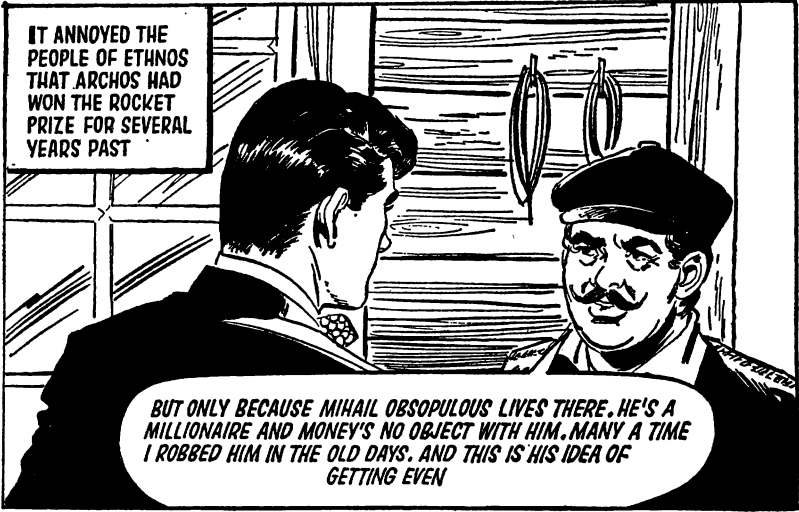




BUT THE PLACE WAS *NOT* QUITE WHAT TIM EXPECTED. IT'S INTERIOR BRISTLED WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE EVERY KIND OF FIREWORK EVER THOUGHT OF







IT ANNOYED THE
PEOPLE OF ETHNOS
THAT ARCHOS HAD
WON THE ROCKET
PRIZE FOR SEVERAL
YEARS PAST

BUT ONLY BECAUSE MIHAIL OBSOPULOUS LIVES THERE. HE'S A
MILLIONAIRE AND MONEY'S NO OBJECT WITH HIM. MANY A TIME
I ROBBED HIM IN THE OLD DAYS. AND THIS IS HIS IDEA OF
GETTING EVEN



ARCHOS CAN AFFORD MARVELLOUS ROCKETS WITH HIM BACKING THEM.
BUT THIS YEAR'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY

IF YOU'LL
HELP -

YOU MEAN -



AT LAST HE MANAGED TO CALM DOWN ENOUGH TO TELL UNCLE GREGOR HE WAS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE

THIS SORT OF ROCKET I WORK ON ISN'T A GIGANTIC FIREWORK. IT'S A SPACE ROCKET

I AM NOT ASKING YOU TO GO TO THE MOON. I JUST WANT A ROCKET THAT WILL GO HIGH- AND BE BEAUTIFUL

BUT I TELL YOU -

LISTEN, WHAT DOES A ROCKET DO? IT GOES UP. HOW DOES IT GET UP? EXPLOSION. POOF. HOW DOES IT STAY UP? DESIGN. DOES YOUR ROCKET DO THAT?





LATER THAT NIGHT, KATINA FOUND
HERSELF THINKING A LOT ABOUT TIM

MAYBE HE'LL LIKE
ME MORE IF I HELP
HIM-AND HE
CERTAINLY WON'T
HELP ME UNLESS
I DO

ONCE MORE SHE WENT
ACROSS TO THE
JAILHOUSE

HEY, WILL YOU DO
ME A FAVOUR? HOW
ABOUT LETTING ME
OUT OF HERE FOR A
WHILE? GIVING ME
A BREATH OF
FRESH AIR?



AND SO FOR THE FIRST TIME KATINA FOUND HERSELF
WALKING ALONE WITH TIM IN THE MOONLIGHT

QUITE A LITTLE PARADISE
THIS PLACE TURNS OUT
TO BE

YOU SAID IT
WAS A HOLE
IN THE
GROUND



YOUR FIRST GUESS WAS
NEARER THE TRUTH. AT
LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT
IS WHEN YOU HAVE TO
LIVE HERE

MAYBE THAT'S HOW
EVERYBODY'S HOME
SEEMS ONCE IN A
WHILE



SHE LOOKED
UP AT HIM
KEENLY

YOU KNOW - YOU
COULD GET AWAY
FROM ETHNOS - IF
YOU HAD SOMEONE
TO HELP YOU

MEANING
YOU?











**BUT NEXT DAY DAWNED
WITH STARTLING NEWS**

**THEY'VE
LAUNCHED YOUR
ROCKET SHIP. I
HEARD IT ON THE
RADIO!**

**IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU MUST HAVE
MADE A
MISTAKE**

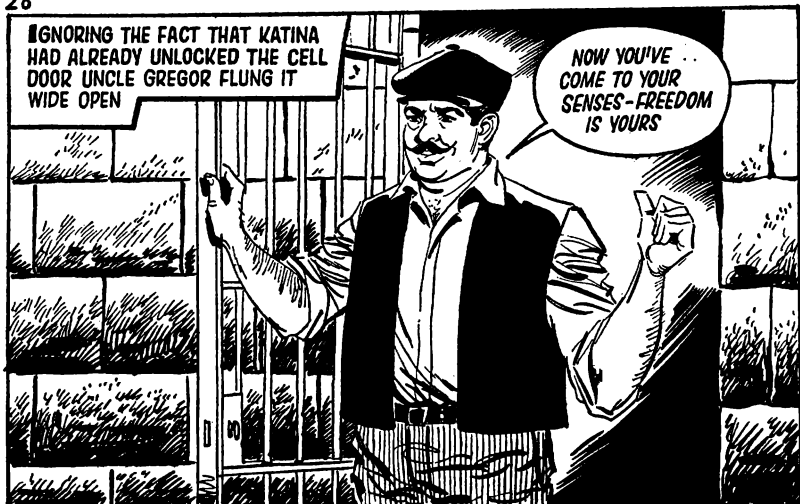
**TIM REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE NEWS
TILL HE HAD HEARD IT FOR HIMSELF
ON THE BATTERED OLD PORTABLE
RADIO THAT KATINA BROUGHT
TO THE JAIL**

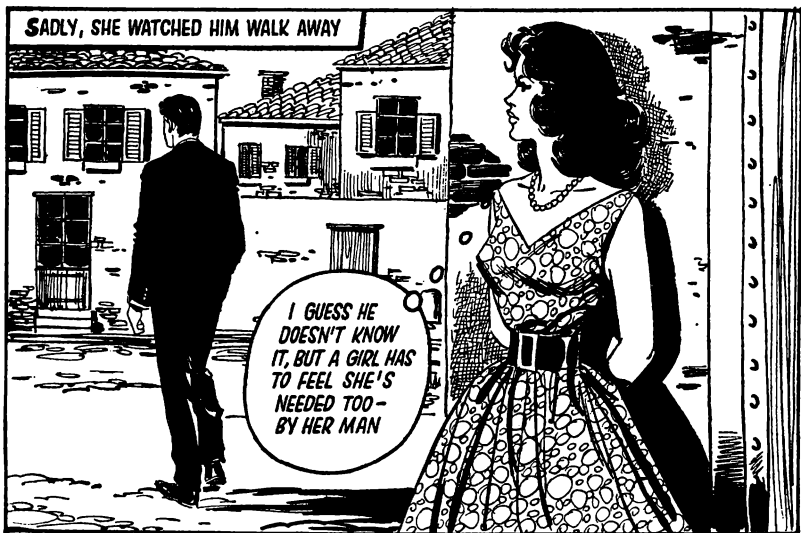
**ROCKETSHIP MM, SUCCESSFULLY
LAUNCHED THIS MORNING, HAS
BEEN CALLED THE MOST
EXCITING SPACE PROBE
TO DATE**

**ISN'T IT
EXCITING?**

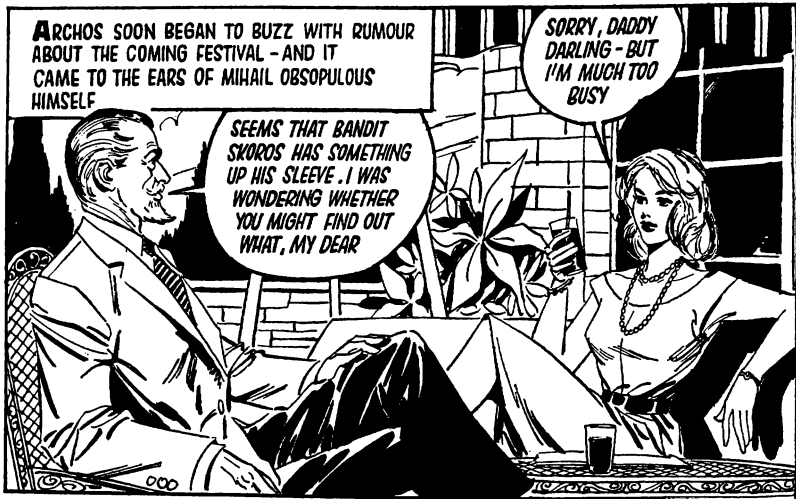
NO!





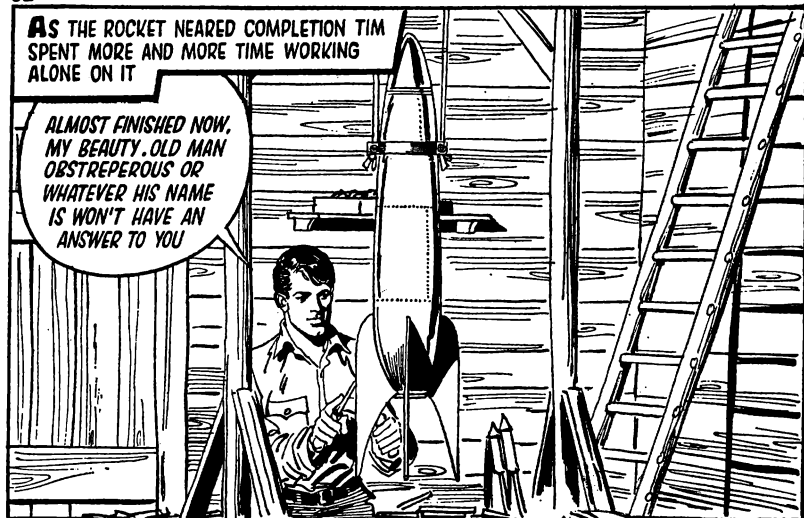






AS THE ROCKET NEARED COMPLETION TIM SPENT MORE AND MORE TIME WORKING ALONE ON IT

*ALMOST FINISHED NOW,
MY BEAUTY. OLD MAN
OBSTREPEROUS OR
WHATEVER HIS NAME
IS WON'T HAVE AN
ANSWER TO YOU*



HE WAS USED TO OCCASIONAL VISITS FROM TOWNSFOLK AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF ANOTHER ONE

*COME ON
IN*

*THANK
YOU*





AS A MATTER OF FACT I WAS
ABOUT TO BREAK FOR LUNCH

AND I WAS GOING
TO PICNIC ON THE
BEACH. PLEASE
JOIN ME

SHE WATCHED WITH INTEREST AS
HE PADLOCKED THE DOOR

IS IT ALWAYS
LOCKED WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
THERE ?

OF COURSE.
CAN'T AFFORD
TO TAKE
RISKS

SOMEONE ELSE HAD BEEN
THINKING OF PICNICS, TOO.
KATINA HAD BEEN MEANING
TO SURPRISE TIM

WELL, WHO
CAN **SHE**
BE ?





SHE HURRIED BACK TO TELL UNCLE GREGOR WHAT SHE HAD SEEN

*SHE'S
PROBABLY
KIDNAPPED
HIM !*

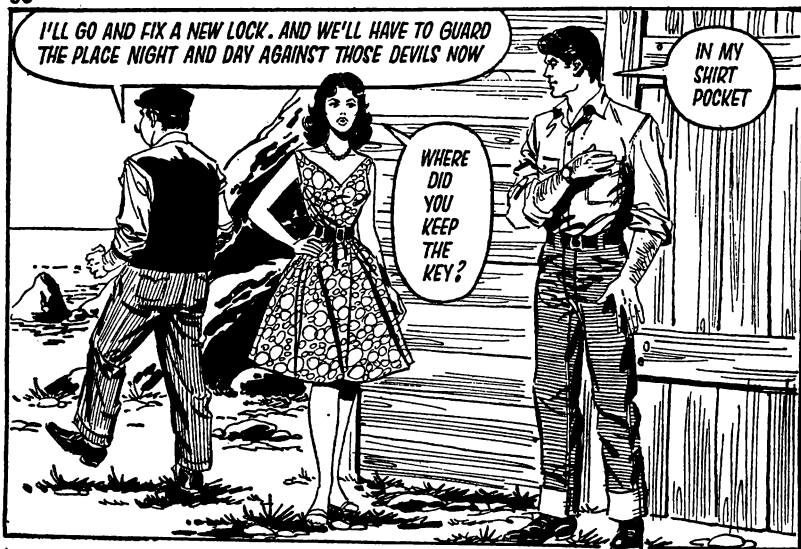
*NO NEED FOR
PANIC, MY DEAR. THE
ROCKET'S NEARLY
FINISHED. I DARESAY
I COULD GET IT UP
MYSELF NOW*

*NEVER MIND
ABOUT THE STUPID
ROCKET. THAT WOMAN
HAS GOT YOUR MAN
OUT THERE*

AH, YES, YOUR MAN, YOU MEAN







MEANWHILE ISA HAD REPORTED BACK TO HER FATHER WHO HAD MORE SUBTLE
WAYS OF ELIMINATING COMPETITION THAN USING STOLEN KEYS



AMERICAN, EH? WELL,
IF HE'S WHO I THINK HE
IS, A PHONE CALL TO THE
RIGHT AUTHORITY WILL
REMOVE **THAT** FLY IN
THE OINTMENT

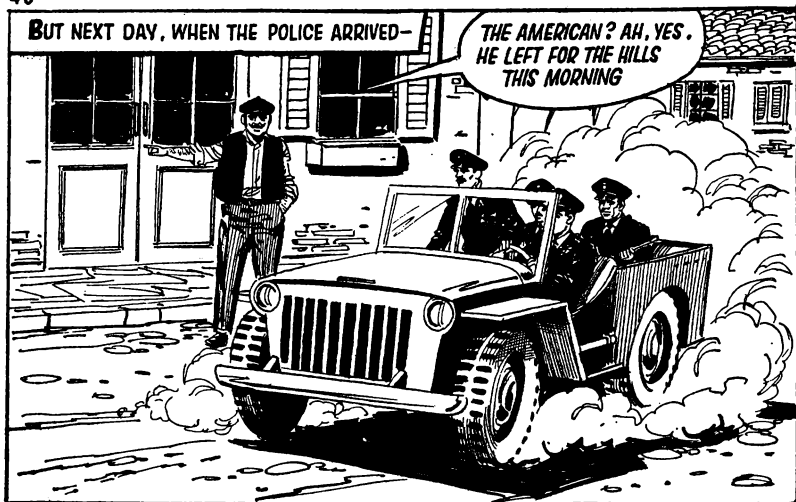
SUCH A
PITY. HE'S
REALLY
RATHER
HANDSOME

BUT OBSOPOULOUS
WAS RECKONING
WITHOUT UNCLE
GREGOR, WHO, TO
WHILE AWAY A
SLOW EVENING,
HAD BEEN
LISTENING FOR
PHONE CALLS
THAT HE COULD
TAP

THIS MAN
MAY BE
FOUND IN
ETHNOS.
SEND
FORCES
AT ONCE

THE DIRTY, GROVELLING
SNAKE: WHAT WILL
HE STOOP TO NEXT?







ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL TIM CAME OUT OF HIDING - AND LONG BEFORE DARK THE STREETS OF ETHNOS WERE THROING WITH PEOPLE



AS ISA APPROACHED, GREGOR
DISAPPEARED TO KEEP HIS EYE ON
THE ROCKET



WHY, HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I'M AFRAID DADDY'S DESERTED ME.
HE'S ENTERTAINING A COUNTRY-
MAN OF YOURS



YES, ADMIRAL LUCAS. HE'S
WITH THE AMERICAN FLEET
FURTHER DOWN THE
COAST







KATINA, MEANWHILE, HAD PUT ON A NEW DRESS AND WAS ALMOST READY TO GO OUT TO MEET TIM



BUT WHEN SHE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH TIM HE WAS STILL DODGING THE ADMIRAL



DON'T THINK I CAN'T RECOGNISE YOU BEHIND THOSE STUPID GLASSES





HEARTBROKEN, KATINA HAD FLUNG HERSELF ON THE BED, AND WAS HARDLY AWARE OF THE NOISE OUTSIDE

HE WAS LYING TO ME ALL THE TIME - AND I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO DO SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS TOGETHER

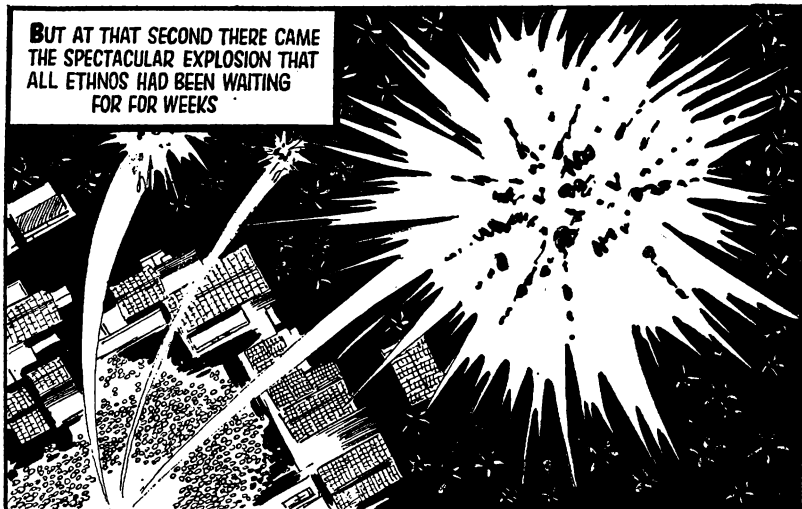
THEN SHE CAME TO A DECISION

I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER. I HAVE TO GET OUT

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'LL GO - BUT ANYWHERE WILL DO SO LONG AS IT'S WHERE I DON'T HAVE TO SEE TIM EVERY DAY OR BE REMINDED OF HIM. I CAN'T BREAK MY HEART OVER AND OVER AGAIN



**BUT AT THAT SECOND THERE CAME
THE SPECTACULAR EXPLOSION THAT
ALL ETHNOS HAD BEEN WAITING
FOR FOR WEEKS**



UNCLE GREGOR WENT WILD !

**BRAVO ! IT MUST BE A
VICTORY ! WHAT A
HEIGHT !**



SO PROLONGED WAS THE STARBURST AND FROM SUCH A HEIGHT DID IT FALL THAT EVEN THE FLEEING KATINA WAS STOPPED IN HER TRACKS :



AND THEN, AS IF BY MAGIC, THERE HE WAS STANDING BEFORE HER, EVEN BEFORE THE SPENT ROCKET COULD FALL BACK TO EARTH



THEY WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

WHEN ISA TURNED UP I HAD TO STICK
WITH HER IN CASE SHE GOT UP TO ANY
MONKEY BUSINESS.

FORGIVE ME
FOR DOUBTING
YOU, MY LOVE

BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE OTHER PEOPLE WANTED EXPLANATIONS

WELL, TIM,
IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME

WELL, SIR, I GUESS
IT HAS. BUT IT'S-ER-
KIND OF A LONG
STORY, TOO





KATINA MADE
HER ANSWER
QUITE CLEAR



AND THEN THE CROWD WENT WILD - EVEN WILDER THAN IT HAD BEEN BEFORE



MATINA'S HAPPINESS WAS SO GREAT THAT FOR ONCE SHE BEGAN TO SHARE TIM'S DOUBTS ABOUT LEAVING ETHNOS WHEN THE ADMIRAL SENT A HELICOPTER TO PICK THEM UP NEXT DAY

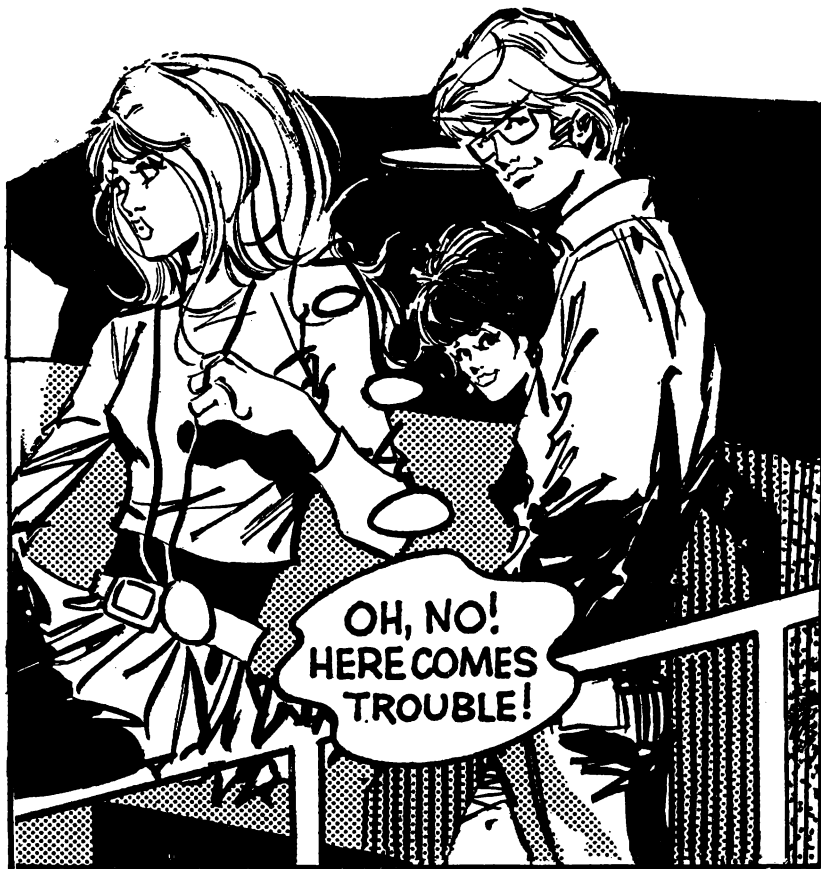


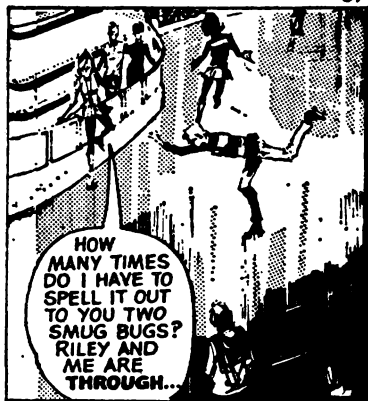
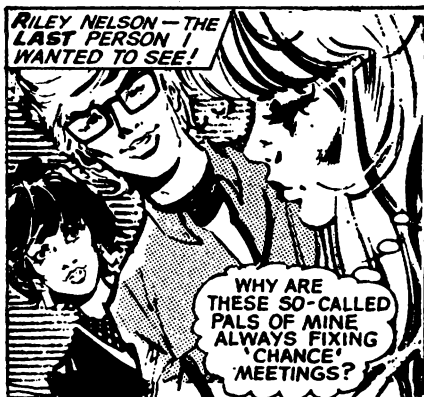
BUT FEELING TIM AT HER SIDE - THE BRUSH OF HIS CHEEK ON HERS
AND THE GRIP OF HIS HAND - SHE KNEW THAT LIFE NOW WAS
GOING TO BE ALL SHE'D EVER WANTED IT TO BE

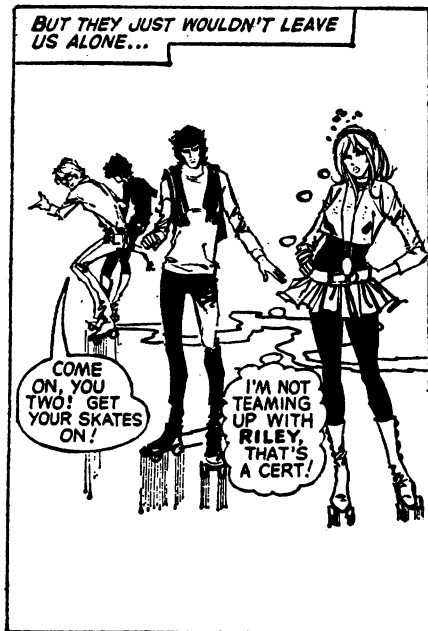
NEVER MIND, HONEY.
WE'LL BE BACK. WHEN
YOU FIND A SLICE OF
PARADISE LIKE ETHNOS
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT
QUITE FOREVER

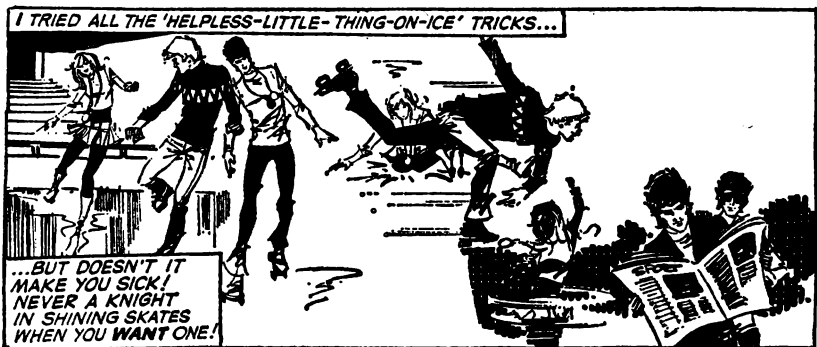


WITHOUT HIM

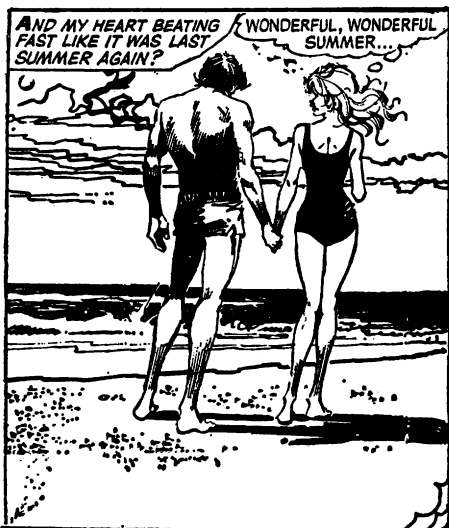
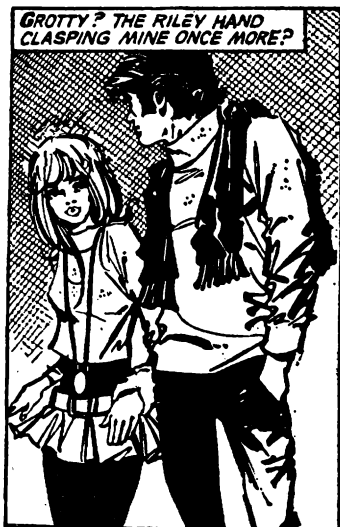
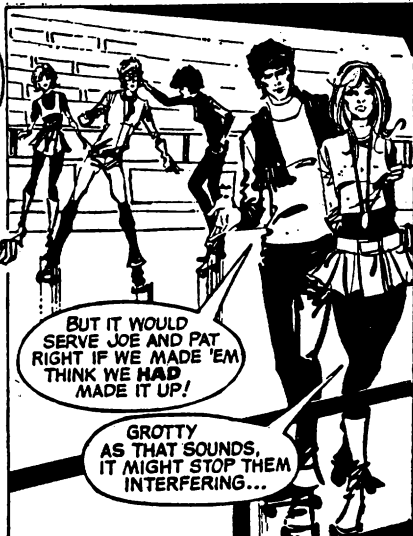




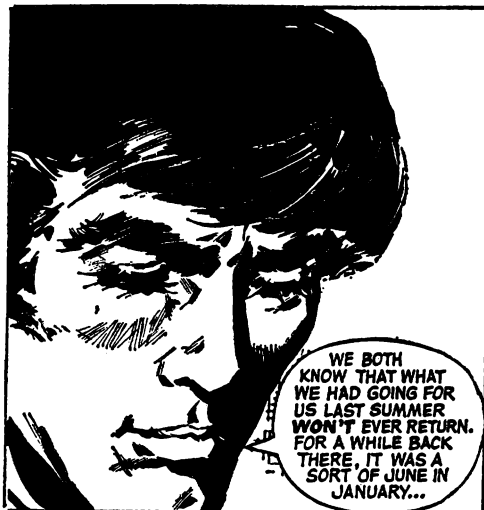














**THE FINAL SPLIT UP WITH RILEY
WAS THE BEST THING THAT COULD
HAPPEN TO ME, I TOLD MY
BREAKING HEART...**

*The
End*

BREAKING POINT



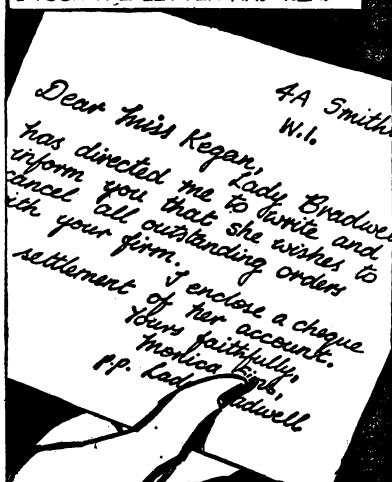
THE FIRST THING MY ASSISTANT, JILL GARRETT, HANDED ME WHEN I ARRIVED AT MY OFFICE THAT FATEFUL MORNING WAS THE THREATENING ANONYMOUS NOTE. BUT THAT WASN'T ALL...

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

THERE WAS A SHARP NOTE IN JILL'S VOICE THAT I'D NEVER HEARD BEFORE

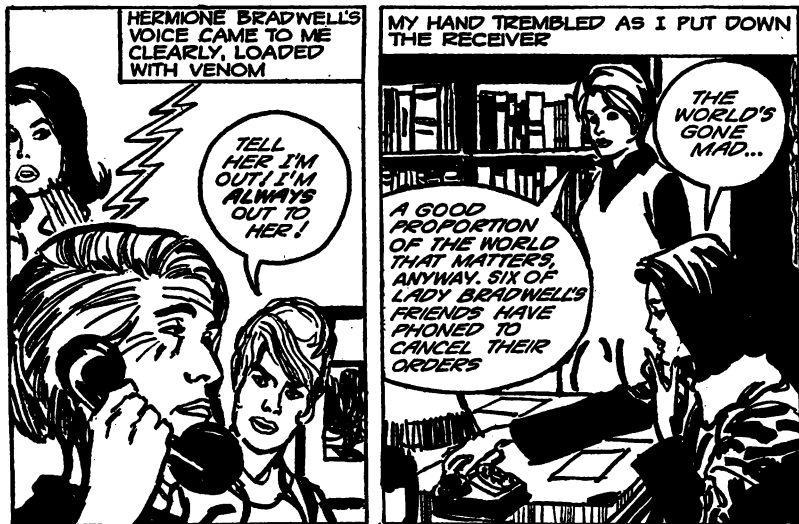


I TOOK THE LETTER AND READ—



MY WORLD REELED







AND IT SAID...

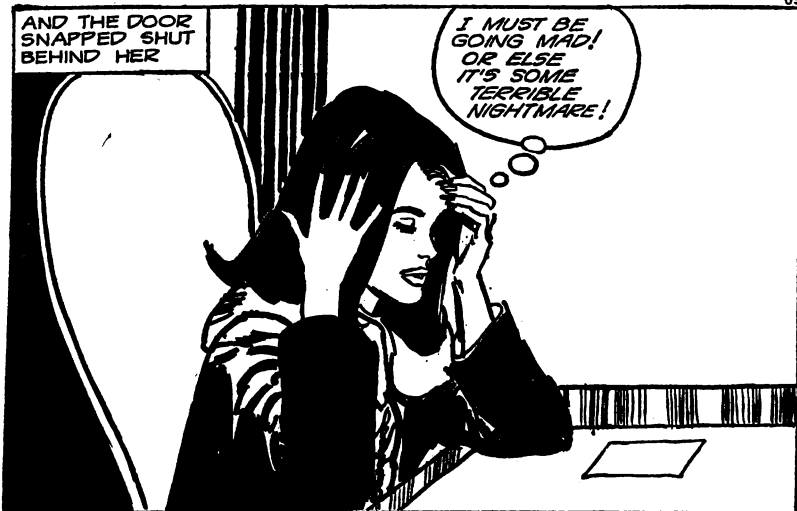
Dear Miss Kegan,
 I wish to offer my
 immediate resignation
 and am willing to
 forgo any salary
 owing.

Jill Garrett



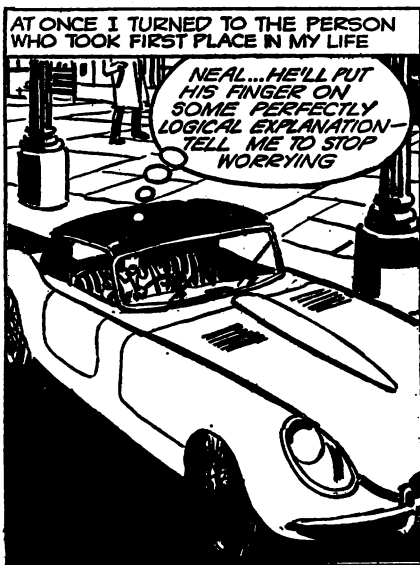
AND THE DOOR
SNAPPED SHUT
BEHIND HER

I MUST BE
GOING MAD!
OR ELSE
IT'S SOME
TERRIBLE
NIGHTMARE!



AT ONCE I TURNED TO THE PERSON
WHO TOOK FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE

NEAL... HE'LL PUT
HIS FINGER ON
SOME PERFECTLY
LOGICAL EXPLANATION—
TELL ME TO STOP
WORRYING



IF ONLY
HE CAN SEE
ME STRAIGHT
AWAY...



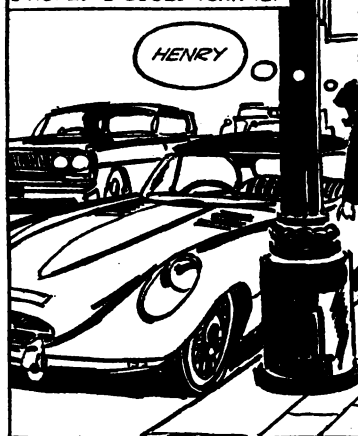


THOUGHTS OF THE ANONYMOUS
LETTER CROWDED MY MIND

think
you got it
good but fr
now on you
an expect ru
and miser
and DEATH

MY
WORLD'S
FALLING TO
PIECES! EVEN
NEAL'S FAILED
ME NOW!

THERE WAS ONE OTHER PERSON
I HOPED I COULD TURN TO



HENRY WIGMAN HAD
BEEN LIKE A FATHER
TO ME, HELPED AND
ADVISED ME—LENT ME
MONEY TO START OUT
ON MY OWN...



I'M AFRAID
HE'S VERY
BUSY, MISS
KEGAN. HE
CAN ONLY
SPARE YOU
A FEW
MINUTES





I ALSO DREW OUT MY SAVINGS
AND PUT THE MONEY STRAIGHT
IN THE POST TO HENRY

GOODBYE,
HENRY

THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE LEFT.
THE YOUTH CLUB.

HI, LADY
PRESIDENT!
WHY THE
BLUE LOOK?

CAN
I TALK
TO YOU,
TOSH?

SURE, HONEY.
COME IN AND
HAVE A
CUPPA

AT LEAST I STILL HAD ONE
FRIEND

YOU CAN
ALWAYS TELL
YOUR TROUBLES
TO UNCLE
TOSH

YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT FEELS
LIKE TO HAVE
SOMEONE SAY
A KIND
WORD TO
ME!

I SHOWED HIM THE
MYSTERIOUS LETTER

ANONYMOUS, EH?

FIRST THAT—
AND THEN MY
CUSTOMERS
LEAVE ME,
MY ASSISTANT
RESIGNS, MY
OLDEST FRIEND
WASHES HIS
HANDS OF ME—
AND MY
FIANCE AVOIDS
SEEING
ME!

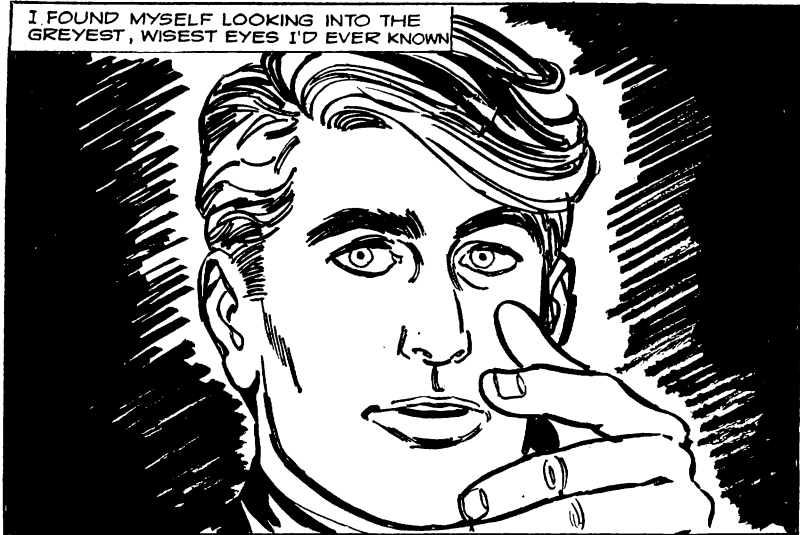
THIS IS DEFINITELY
A CASE FOR MIKE.
HE USED TO TRY
TO TEACH ME AT
SCHOOL, BUT APART
FROM THAT, HE'S
THE BRIGHTEST
GUY I KNOW!

BUT
WOULD
HE—

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

THIS IS MIKE
GORDON. JUST
TELL HIM WHAT
YOU TOLD ME!

I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING INTO THE
GREYEST, WISEST EYES I'D EVER KNOWN



I WOULDN'T NORMALLY
BOTHER A STRANGER
WITH MY TROUBLES, MR.
GORDON, BUT I'M
DESPERATE !



I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING
THAT HAD HAPPENED

LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT. FIRST YOU GET AN ANONYMOUS LETTER—YOUR BEST CUSTOMERS LEAVE YOU—YOUR CHIEF ASSISTANT GIVES NOTICE—YOUR FIANCÉ AVOIDS YOU, AND YOUR OLDEST FRIEND GIVES YOU THE COLD SHOULDER?

Y-YES

HIS VOICE HARDENED

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE MAN IN YOUR LIFE? THAT IN FACT YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SEVERAL MEN AT ONCE?

HIS WORDS FILLED ME WITH ANGRY RESENTMENT

YOUR FRIEND'S TRYING TO INSULT ME, TOSH. GOODBYE!

HEY, TEACH! WHADYA MEAN?

HIS HAND ON MY ARM STOPPED ME.
HIS VOICE WAS SUDDENLY GENTLE.

I'M SORRY, MISS
KEGAN. I HAD
TO MAKE SURE
THAT YOU WERE
WHAT I THOUGHT
YOU WERE. A
STRAIGHTFORWARD,
HONEST YOUNG
WOMAN



THERE SEEMS
NO LOGICAL REASON
FOR EVERYONE
TURNING AGAINST
YOU. I BELIEVE YOU'RE
THE VICTIM OF ONE
PERSON'S EVIL
MALEVOLENCE!



YOU MEAN...THE
WRITER OF THAT
LETTER IS ACTUALLY
JUST BEING
SPITEFUL?

IT'S
POSSIBLE.
WELL, THAT'S
ALL FOR
TONIGHT



HE OFFERED TO
SEE ME HOME

I-I
HAD TO
SELL MY
CAR

AND I NEVER
HAD THE MONEY
TO BUY ONE,
SO THAT MAKES
US EVEN,
LET'S
WALK

WE PARTED AT
MY DOOR

THANK
YOU FOR
LISTENING SO
PATIENTLY

I'M NOT
TEACHING
TOMORROW, SO
I'LL BE AT YOUR
OFFICE FIRST THING

SOMEHOW, JUST TALKING TO HIM
HAD LESSENED MY MISERY

PERHAPS HE
CAN HELP, BUT
WHO IS DOING
THIS TO ME-
AND WHY?

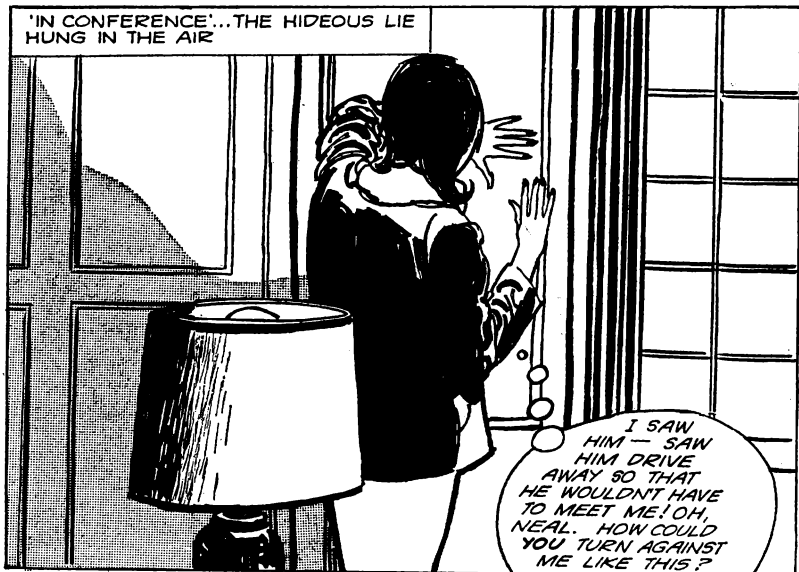
AND THEN A WILD SURGE OF HOPE
AS I DISCOVERED NEAL'S LETTER



PERHAPS
IT'S TO SAY
HE WASN'T
TRYING TO
AVOID ME
AFTER
ALL

Dear Anna, Sorry I
couldn't see you today.
I was in conference and
terribly busy. Still am.
I'll be in touch in a
couple of days when
the panic lets up,
In haste, Neal

'IN CONFERENCE'...THE HIDEOUS LIE
HUNG IN THE AIR



I SAW
HIM — SAW
HIM DRIVE
AWAY SO THAT
HE WOULDN'T HAVE
TO MEET ME! OH,
NEAL. HOW COULD
YOU TURN AGAINST
ME LIKE THIS?

NEXT MORNING AT THE OFFICE, MIKE GORDON ENTERED UNANNOUNCED -



HELLO, ANNA

MIKE!
I-I DON'T
QUITE KNOW
HOW TO SAY
THIS, BUT...I'M
SO VERY GLAD
TO SEE
YOU

FOLLOWED BY JILL
I'M SORRY, MISS
KEGAN. HE WOULDN'T
GIVE HIS NAME,
JUST BRUSHED
PAST ME



OH, YOU MUST
BE JILL
GARRETT?

WELL, MISS GARRETT
YOU'RE LEAVING ON
FRIDAY, BUT FIRST OF
ALL, YOU'RE GOING
TO TELL ME WHY!





HIS NEXT WORDS SURPRISED ME

THE LETTER,
PLEASE, MISS
Kegan!

THE...THE
LETTER?

YES, THE
ANONYMOUS
ONE!

JILL LOOKED SUDDENLY
UNEASY...

MISS GARRETT,
THIS LETTER
IS GOING TO
THE POLICE.
THEY'LL HAVE A
FEW QUESTIONS
TO ASK YOU!



you th
you got
good bu
now on
can ex
and m
and DE





ALL MORNING I'D BEEN STRUGGLING AGAINST A LONGING TO HEAR THAT ONE CERTAIN VOICE...

I—I MUST JUST MAKE A PHONE CALL...

RIGHT, THEN WE'LL GO STRAIGHT TO LADY BRADWELL'S



I MANAGED TO CATCH NEAL AT HIS CLUB

NEAL DARLING, I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE YOU...

UM—ER—WELL, THAT'S GOING TO BE A BIT DIFFICULT...



I KNEW AT ONCE IT WAS HOPELESS...

... I'M AWFULLY TIED UP JUST NOW AND—HELLO...





I WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE WORLD FOR A BROAD SHOULDER TO CRY ON, BUT...



AT LADY BRADWELL'S...



AFTER A LONG DELAY, WE WERE SEEN BY LADY BRADWELL'S SECRETARY



THE DOOR OPENED, AND I RECOGNISED THE VACANT, HANDSOME FACE OF LADY BRADWELL'S THIRD HUSBAND



I SEIZED MY CHANCE

MR. TANNER, I MUST SEE LADY BRADWELL— IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT!

ER—WELL, YOU —



AT THAT MOMENT LADY BRADWELL HERSELF WALKED INTO THE ROOM



I GAPED AT HER







I COULD ALMOST HEAR THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS SNIFF



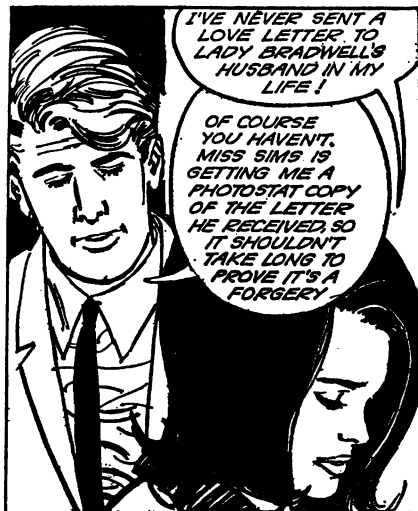
A SHAMELESS LETTER—TO A MARRIED MAN SHE'D HARDLY EVEN MET! I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL IT A LOVE LETTER. I CALL IT FILTH!



AH! A TYPED LETTER THAT WOULD BE?

CERTAINLY NOT! WRITTEN IN HER OWN HANDWRITING—I'D RECOGNISE IT ANYWHERE!







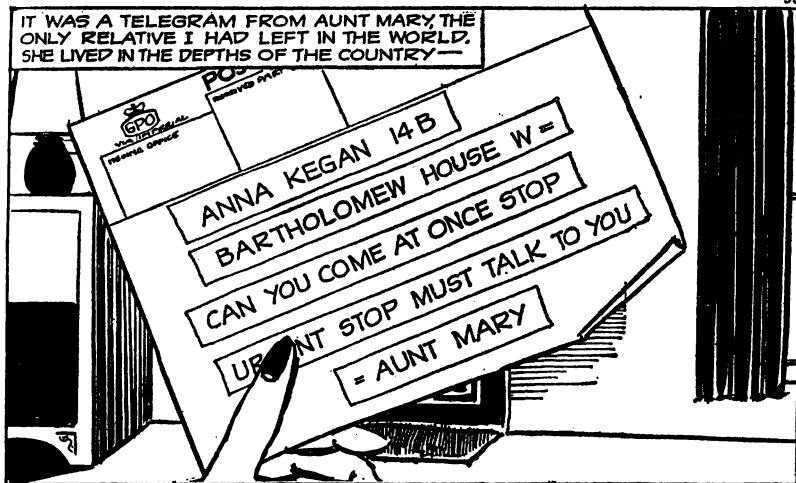
BUT MY LAST THOUGHTS THAT NIGHT WERE OF NEAL...



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...



IT WAS A TELEGRAM FROM AUNT MARY, THE ONLY RELATIVE I HAD LEFT IN THE WORLD. SHE LIVED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE COUNTRY —



MILES FROM ANYWHERE. WITHOUT EVEN A PHONE, SO I HAD TO GO



FIVE MINUTES LATER THE UP TRAIN CAME IN...AND THE FIRST PERSON TO STEP OFF IT WAS...





AS SOON AS I OPENED THE
DOOR I SENSED DANGER...



AND THE NEXT MOMENT I WAS SPINNING ACROSS THE ROOM...

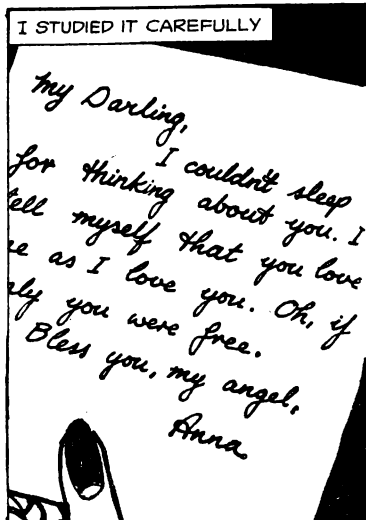
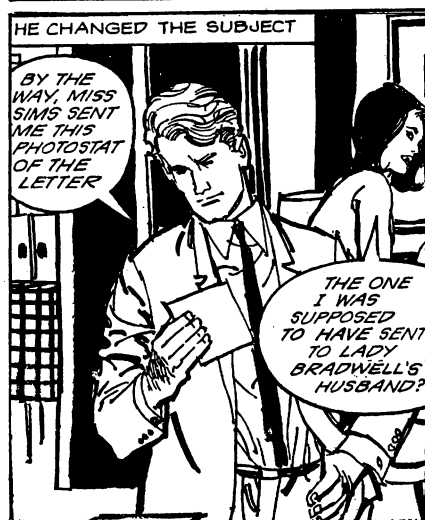


THE DOOR CLOSED AND I HEARD THE SOUND OF FEET SWIFTLY RETREATING DOWN THE CORRIDOR...

HE WAS
HERE! MY
SECRET ENEMY
WAS HERE, IN
THIS VERY
ROOM!





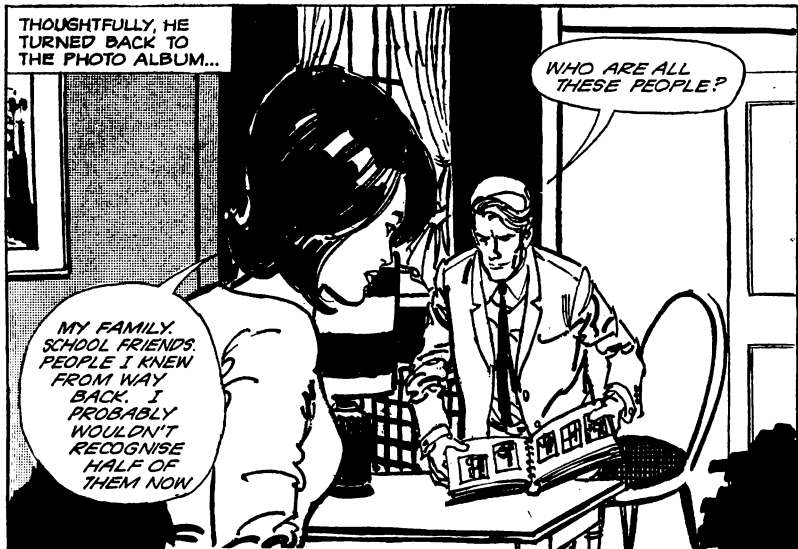




THE ROOM SPUN ROUND ME...



THOUGHTFULLY, HE TURNED BACK TO THE PHOTO ALBUM...





SO FAR HE'S DONE NOTHING BUT BE A NUISANCE. THE TROUBLE IS, I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO STOP THERE. HE'S CONSIDERING SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS. THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T WANT ANYBODY TO KNOW HIS CONNECTION WITH YOU.







HE DIALLED THE YOUTH CLUB NUMBER, AND I HEARD TOSH ANSWERING ...





MY GLANCE SUDDENLY FELL ON A
FACE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN THE
DEAREST THING IN THE WORLD TO ME



I THOUGHT THEN OF MIKE GORDON, THE
MAN WHO HAD MOVED SO SUDDENLY,
SO INEVITABLY INTO MY LIFE



AND AT THAT MOMENT, FROM THE GLOOM BEYOND, CAME THE SHARP CLICK OF THE LATCH...



STEALTHILY, THE SHADOWY FORM MOVED FORWARD...



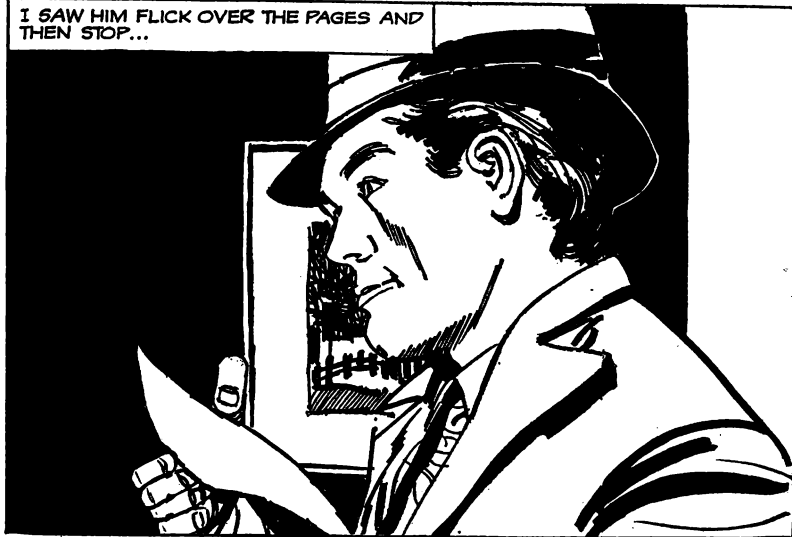
THE TORCH WAVERED ROUND THE ROOM AND THEN RESTED ON THE PHOTO ALBUM...



30/10/20/10/630/10

MY SECRET ENEMY HAD ARRIVED!

I SAW HIM FLICK OVER THE PAGES AND THEN STOP...



MIKE'S VOICE RANG OUT WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS...



THE NEXT MINUTE THE ALBUM WAS SPINNING ACROSS THE ROOM INTO THE FIRE



THEY STRUGGLED CONFUSEDLY IN THE SHADOWS AND I HEARD A FALL...





THE TWO MEN SCRAMBLED
ACROSS THE ROOF



I REACHED THE TOP,
MY HEART POUNDING
PAINFULLY



I CLOSED MY EYES AS MIKE LEAPT AT MY
MYSTERIOUS ENEMY...



NEXT MINUTE THEY WERE
LOCKED TOGETHER... FALLING...



AND WHAT I SAW —



— FILLED ME WITH DREAD

I HEARD THEIR VOICES , HOARSE WITH TENSION.



MY HANDS TREMBLING, I DRAGGED MIKE BACK TO SAFETY

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES—WE'VE GOT TO GO DOWN AFTER THAT POOR DEVIL



IT WAS AFTER THE AMBULANCE MEN CAME THAT I LOOKED FOR THE FIRST TIME INTO THAT WHITE, PAIN-RACKED FACE

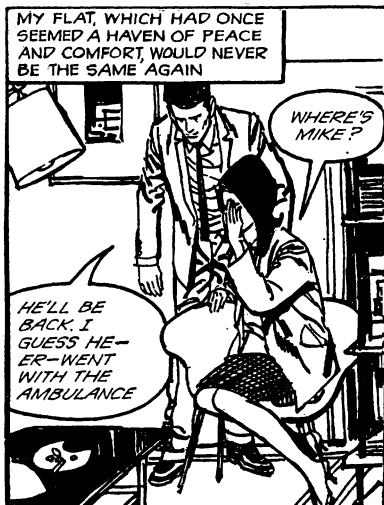
REMEMBER ME, ANNA? I—I'M SORRY—



RECOGNISE HIM?

YES, OF COURSE. WHAT AN IDIOT I'VE BEEN. WHAT A BLIND, STUPID IDIOT!



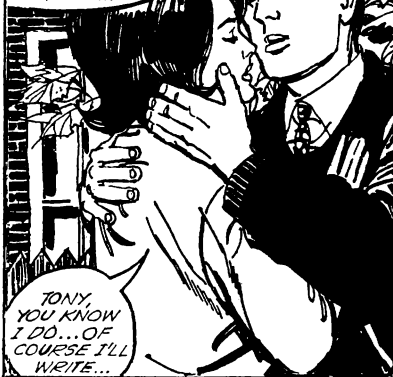






HE WAS A STRANGE BOY. THE FIRST PERSON I EVER LOVED. YET, EVEN THEN, SOMETHING ABOUT HIM FRIGHTENED ME

YOU'LL WRITE TO ME? IF I DON'T HEAR, I'LL KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ANYTHING FOR ME...



AND YOU WROTE HIM THIS!

YES... I WROTE THAT TO TONY. HE KEPT IT AND THEN SENT IT TO LADY BRADWELL'S HUSBAND. I KNEW IT WAS MY WRITING

don't sleep
about you. I
that you love
you. Oh, if
re free.
ou, my angel,
Anna





I FELT NUMB WITH SHOCK

HE'D BECOME UNBALANCED OF COURSE.
FIRST HE TRIED TO RUIN YOUR BUSINESS.
THEN THERE WAS HENRY WIGMAN. TONY
POSED AS A MONEY-LENDER TO HIM -
TRIED TO GET HIM TO PAY YOUR 10 US.
THEN YOUR-ER-FIANCE-



HE TOLD HIM YOU WERE A
SECRET MEMBER OF A
SUBVERSIVE POLITICAL
ORGANISATION, LIABLE TO
BE ARRESTED AT
ANY TIME.

POOR
NEAL - HIS
PRECIOUS CAREER
IN HAZARD. NO
WONDER HE RAN
OUT ON ME!



IT WAS ALL OVER—ALL EXPLAINED—
THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY

YOU'VE GOT
TO TRY TO
FORGIVE AND
FORGET, ANNA.
HIM—AND
ALL THE
OTHERS

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
STOOD BY ME—
BELIEVED
IN ME



AND AS OUR EYES MET, I KNEW THAT OUT OF THIS HIDEOUS WRECKAGE—THIS WAKING NIGHTMARE—I HAD FOUND SOMEONE TO LOVE!



A GOOD THING GOING...



HI, LILY
THE PINK!
HOW'S THE
MEDICINAL
COMPOUNDS
TRADE?

CHEEKY
YOUNG
MONKEY.



JUST 'COS ME NAME'S LIL AND
I SELL HERBAL MEDICINES, 'E
CALLS ME LILY THE PINK!









POOR LUV' SHE 'AD GOT IT BAD, I FELT I 'AD TO 'ELP 'ER!



SHE WENT AWAY 'APPY.. AND I SAW 'ER CARRY OUT ME INSTRUCTIONS...



CHEEK! IT'D TAKE A BARRELFUL OF
SUGAR TO SWEETEN 'IS SOUR DIAL!

UGH...IT TASTES
GHASTLY!

HEY!
WATCH
IT!



THAT'S SAPPHIRE... OUR
MARKET GLAMOUR GAL...

I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY! ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



SAPPHIRE, ME FOOT! PLAIN NELLIE SMITH
SHE WAS CHRISTENED!

LET ME BUY YOU
LUNCH AT
CANETTI'S...
TO MAKE
UP FOR
BEING
SO
CLUMSY!

CANETTI'S..
MIM, I'D
LOVE THAT,
HANDSOME!



NO WONDER! IT WAS THE PRICIEST NOSHERY
IN MILES!



SUE WASN'T 'ARF MAD. AT LAST 'ER 'ERO 'AD
FALLEN ORF HIS PEDESTAL...
THE CHEAT!
I'LL SHOW HIM! I'LL HAVE THAT LIPSTICK
AND THAT EYE-SHADOW...

GO IT, GAL!
AND HOW 'BOUT
A CURLY TOP-
KNOT, EH?



NEXT DAY, SUE LOOKED A
REAL TREAT. NOT THAT ANTONY
WAS NOTICING.

I FANCY A DAY AT
BRIGHTON! WILL
YOU TAKE ME,
GORGEOUS?





'E TURNED ROUND AND GULPED THE COFFEE.
THEN 'E TOOK A GOOD BUTCHER'S AT OUR
SUE...

HEY! YOU LOOK SMASHING! A
RIGHT BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL BIRD!
HOW 'BOUT A DATE TONIGHT?



'E SEEMED TO SEE 'ER FOR THE FIRST TIME!
FROM THEN ON, THEIR LOVE BLOOMED LIKE A
ROSE GARDEN! NOT LIKE POOR OLD
ANTHONY AND HIS
PASSION FLOWER!

BUT, SAPPHIRE...

OH
BUZZ
OFF...
YOU
BORE
ME!



THEN ONE DAY SUE UPS
AND SAYS TED WANTS
'ER FOR 'IS TROUBLE
AND STRIFE!

YOU LOVE
'IM, DON'T YER?
SO WHY THE
LONG FACE?



OH, LILY,
HE'S BEEN
CHEATED! HE
ONLY LOVES ME
BECAUSE YOU
SLIPPED THAT
POTION IN HIS
COFFEE!

WHATEVER WAS SHE ON ABOUT? THEN
THE PENNY DROPPED.....!

YER DAFT HA'PORTH! LOVE POTIONS
AIN'T THAT RELIABLE! FIR INSTANCE,
NELLIE'S GIVEN ANTONY
THE PUSH,
AIN'T SHE?

SO YOU
THINK TED
WOULD
HAVE LOVED
ME ANYHOW?
OH, LILY!



'OO KNOWS,
THOUGH? -
MESSE
THERE IS
SOME-
THING IN
IT?

I WAS DEAD CERTAIN! FOR WHY? 'COS THERE
NEVER WAS NO LOVE POTION...

ALL ANTONY
AND TED 'AD WAS A
NIP FROM THE BOTTLE
O' RUM I KEEPS TO
SPIKE ME COFFEE
AND KEEP OUT!
THE COLD!

MAYBE IT COULD
BRING OL' LILY THE
DINK ROMANCE, TOO!

COO-EE, BERT!
FANCY A
DROP O'
COFFEE?

Many Kisses Ago

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HELEN GRAY HAD BEEN TO IBIZA, THE ROMANTIC AND SUNLIT ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF SPAIN, AND ALREADY SHE SENSED IT WAS TO BE A HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

PLAZA DE TOROS

WHY, YOU'RE DRAWING ME!



PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

THE YOUNG SOLDIER FLUSHED



INTEREST FLICKERED IN HIS EYES





IT WAS TWO HOURS BEFORE SHE REJOINED HER MOTHER AT THE HOTEL MONTESOL.

THERE YOU ARE, DEAR! WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING WHAT TO DO THIS EVENING

OH, ER, IF YOU DON'T MIND, MUM - I HAVE A DATE

HELEN AND MRS. GRAY WERE HOLIDAYING WITH BILL EVANS AND HIS MOTHER, AND NOW HE FROWNED AT HER

A DATE? BUT YOU'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED HERE!

WHO IS IT, HELEN? I REALLY DON'T THINK...

SHE CHECKED HER
MOTHER'S PROTEST

HE'S A VERY NICE
BOY. WE'RE GOING
TO A FIESTA IN THE
NEXT VILLAGE. HE'S
PROMISED TO
BRING ME BACK
EARLY

WE-ELL - ALL
RIGHT, IF YOU'RE
SURE HE CAN BE
TRUSTED

BILL EVANS FOLLOWED
HER UPSTAIRS A FEW
MINUTES LATER

I'D LIKE TO HEAR
A BIT MORE ABOUT
THIS GUY YOU'VE
DATED!

HE'S A SPANISH
SOLDIER WHO DRAWS
LIKE AN ANGEL.
LOOK!





AND ROBERTO WAS THE KIND OF
ESCORT A GIRL DREAMED ABOUT

YOU ARE MORE
BEAUTIFUL THAN
ANY OTHER WOMAN
HERE, HELEN

I'M BEGINNING
TO FEEL QUITE
DIZZY. I THINK
THE MOON AND
THE MUSIC HAVE
GONE TO MY
HEAD

LATER HE TOLD HER A
LITTLE ABOUT HIMSELF

I FINISH WITH
THE ARMY IN
FOUR MONTHS,
AND THEN—

THEN—
WHAT?

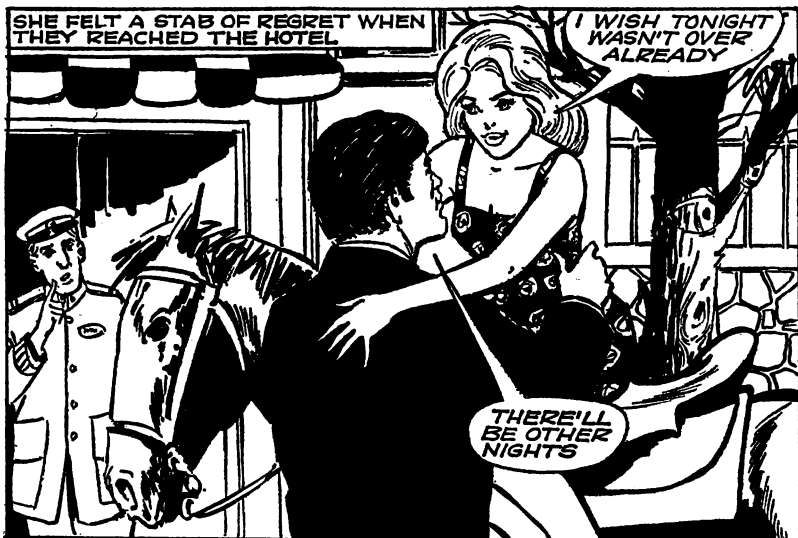




HELEN HAD NO IDEA WHERE ROBERTO GOT THE HORSE, AND SHE DIDN'T CARE



SHE FELT A STAB OF REGRET WHEN THEY REACHED THE HOTEL



THEY STOOD CLOSE TOGETHER,
AND HIS EYES SEEMED TO
SEARCH HER FACE



AS IF IN A DREAM SHE MOVED INTO HIS ARMS. THEIR
LIPS MET, AND HIS KISS WAS FILLED WITH
TENDERNESS AND FIRE





AFTER A FINAL GOODNIGHT KISS AND ARRANGING TO MEET HIM NEXT DAY, SHE WENT UP TO HER ROOM



BILL WAS LOOKING VERY ANNOYED





SHE TURNED AND WENT QUICKLY INTO THE ROOM SHE SHARED WITH HER MOTHER

HELLO, DEAR.
GOOD TIME?

WONDERFUL!
ABSOLUTELY
WONDERFUL!

BUT NEXT DAY HELEN WAITED
FOR ROBERTO IN VAIN

IT'S NEARLY
FIVE O'CLOCK.
SURELY HE'LL
COME SOON

ROBERTO, HOWEVER, HAD TAKEN HER TO THE FIESTA WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN BARRACKS, AND HAD BEEN RECOGNISED BY HIS CAPTAIN



*It was foolish of me,
but I wanted to be
with you, Helen. I've
been arrested and
confined to barracks.
But I will be free
again on Saturday
night*

THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED BY ONE OF ROBERTO'S FRIENDS



HELEN MET BILL AS HE WALKED
BACK ACROSS THE FOYER



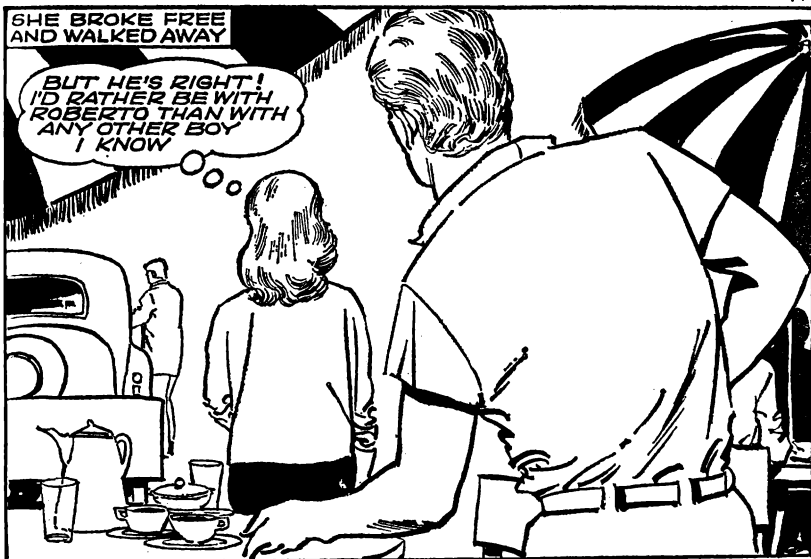
LATER, OVER COFFEE, HELEN THOUGHT
THAT BILL SEEMED UNEASY





SHE BROKE FREE
AND WALKED AWAY

BUT HE'S RIGHT!
I'D RATHER BE WITH
ROBERTO THAN WITH
ANY OTHER BOY
I KNOW



THAT EVENING SHE SAT ALONE

WHAT COULD
HAVE HAPPENED?
WHY DIDN'T HE
COME, OR AT LEAST
SEND A MESSAGE?

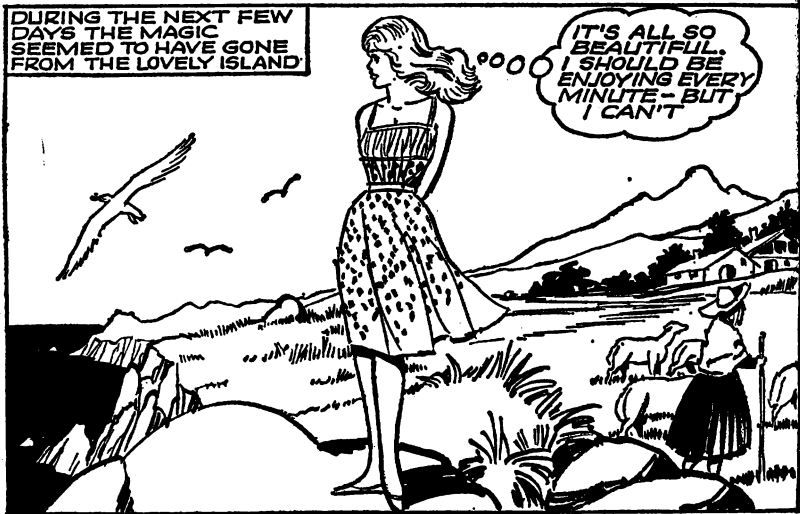


PAIN AND HUMILIATION BROUGHT
TEARS TO HER EYES

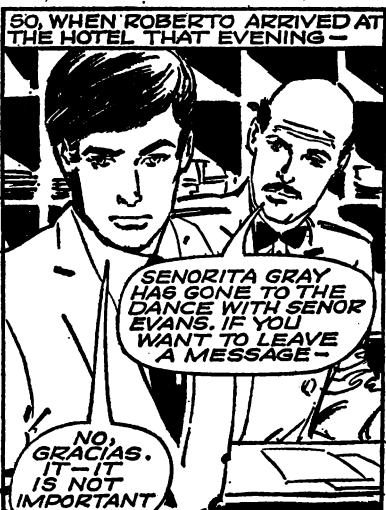
HE-HE MUST
HAVE BEEN JUST
AMUSING HIMSELF.
OH, WHAT A LITTLE
IDIOT I'VE BEEN!

DURING THE NEXT FEW
DAYS THE MAGIC
SEEMED TO HAVE GONE
FROM THE LOVELY ISLAND

IT'S ALL SO
BEAUTIFUL.
I SHOULD BE
ENJOYING EVERY
MINUTE - BUT
I CAN'T



EVENTUALLY HER MOTHER PERSUADED HER TO GO DANCING WITH BILL




SOME TIME LATER, HELEN GLANCED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE NIGHTCLUB—AND HER HEART LEAPT

IT'S HIM!
COULD HE BE
LOOKING FOR
ME?



THEN THE PLEASURE DRAINED FROM HER AS HE TURNED AND GAVE HIS HAND TO A VIVACIOUS DARK-HAIRED GIRL AT HIS SIDE

HE'S WITH
SOMEBODY ELSE!
OBVIOUSLY HE
DIDN'T MEAN
A WORD HE
SAID TO ME



SHE TURNED GAILY TO
BILL, DETERMINED TO
HIDE WHAT SHE FELT



SHE COULD NOT KNOW THAT
ONLY ROBERTO'S PRIDE HAD
PREVENTED HIM FROM
COMING WITHOUT A PARTNER



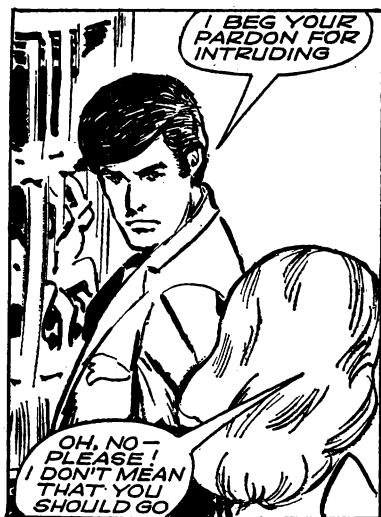
SUDDENLY THE MUSIC SEEMED
HARSH, AND THE JOY HAD
GONE OUT OF DANCING



BUT AT MIDNIGHT SHE
WAS STILL WIDE AWAKE







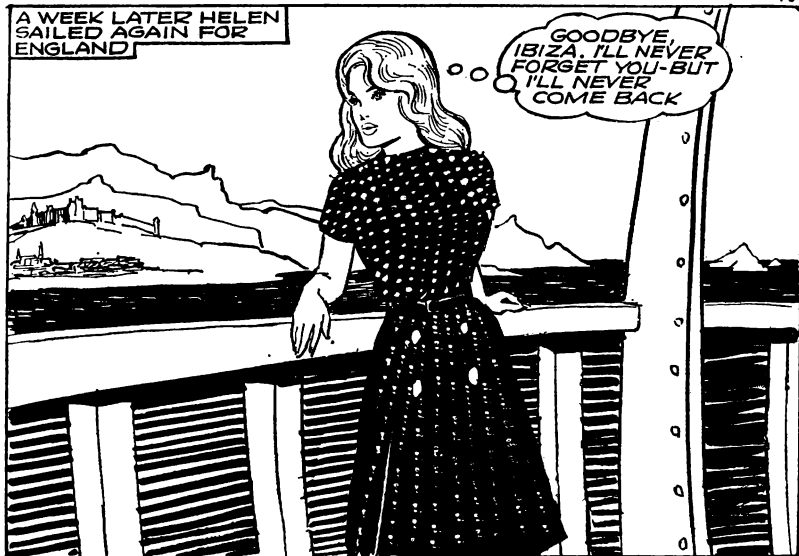




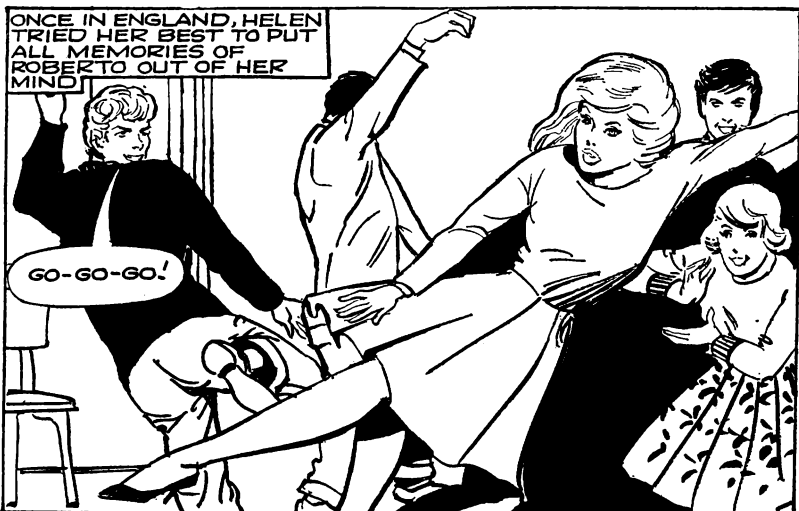




A WEEK LATER HELEN
SAILED AGAIN FOR
ENGLAND



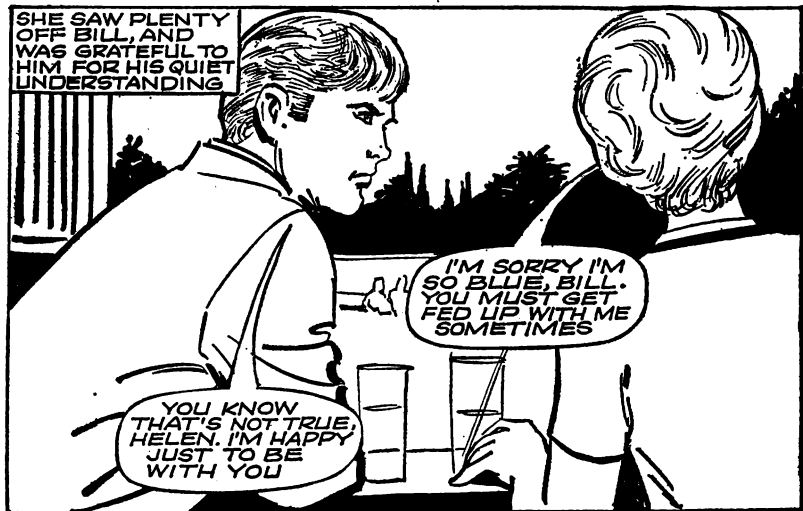
ONCE IN ENGLAND, HELEN
TRIED HER BEST TO PUT
ALL MEMORIES OF
ROBERTO OUT OF HER
MIND



AT THE ART SCHOOL, HOWEVER, HER THOUGHTS KEPT RETURNING TO HIM



SHE SAW PLENTY OFF BILL, AND WAS GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR HIS QUIET UNDERSTANDING



THEY CONTINUED THEIR STROLL
IN THE PARK, AND PRESENTLY—

HELEN, THINGS
HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT
BETWEEN US LATELY,
HAVEN'T THEY?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
BILL?

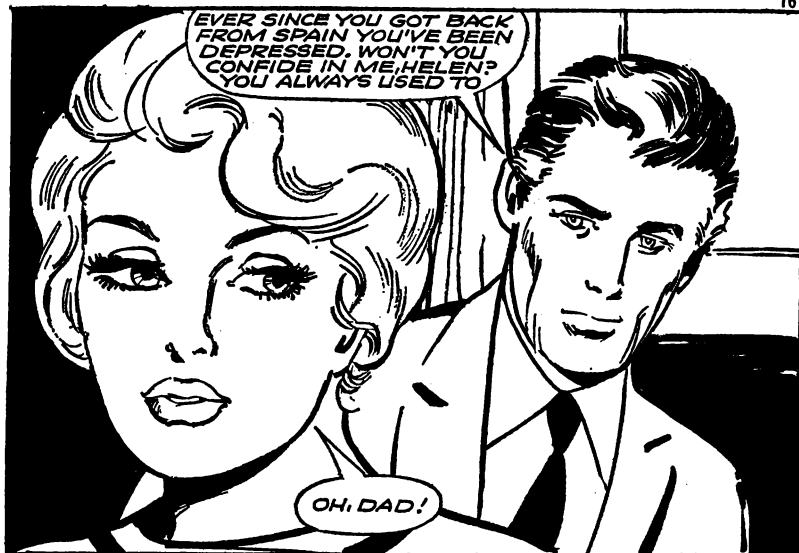
WELL—SINCE WE'VE
BEEN BACK FROM SPAIN
WE SEEM TO HAVE
BECOME—CLOSER

YES,
I SUPPOSE
WE HAVE











SUDDENLY HE BECAME AWARE
OF ROBERTO'S DRAWINGS

I'VE NOT SEEN THESE
BEFORE. YOU DIDN'T DO
THEM, DID YOU?

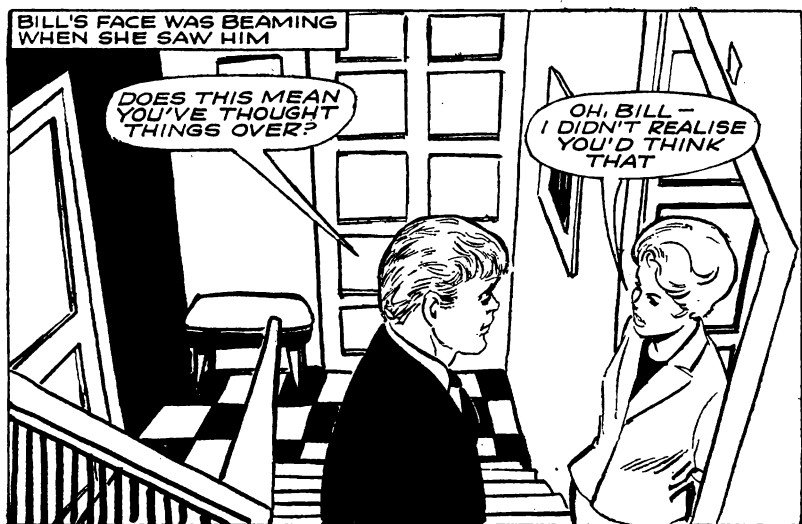
IF I COULD
DRAW LIKE
THAT—



WHERE DID
YOU GET THEM?
THEY'RE GOOD!







HER HEART CONTRACTED AS THE
LIGHT DIED OUT OF HIS EYES



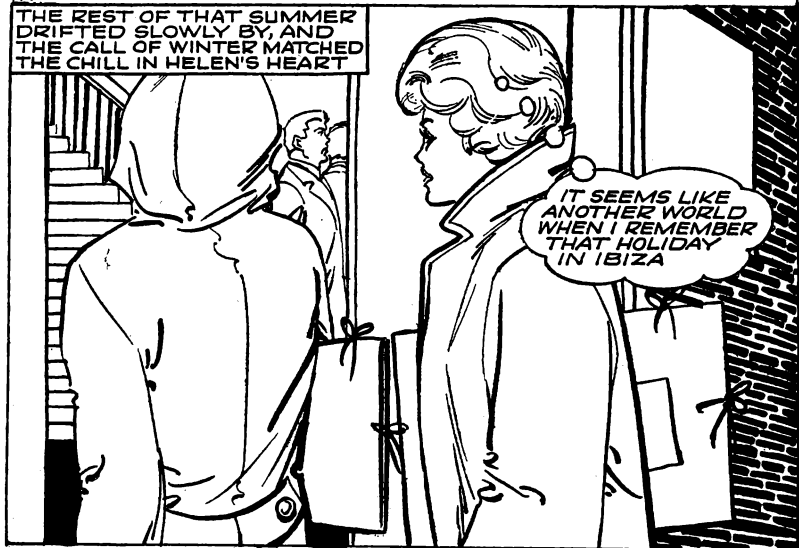
OH, WELL. NEVER
MIND. I'M GLAD YOU
DID PHONE ME
TONIGHT, WHATEVER
THE REASON

I MAY NOT BE THE MAN FOR
YOU, HELEN, BUT REMEMBER
THIS. I'LL ALWAYS DO MY
BEST TO HELP YOU. I'LL
ALWAYS BE THERE
WHEN YOU NEED ME



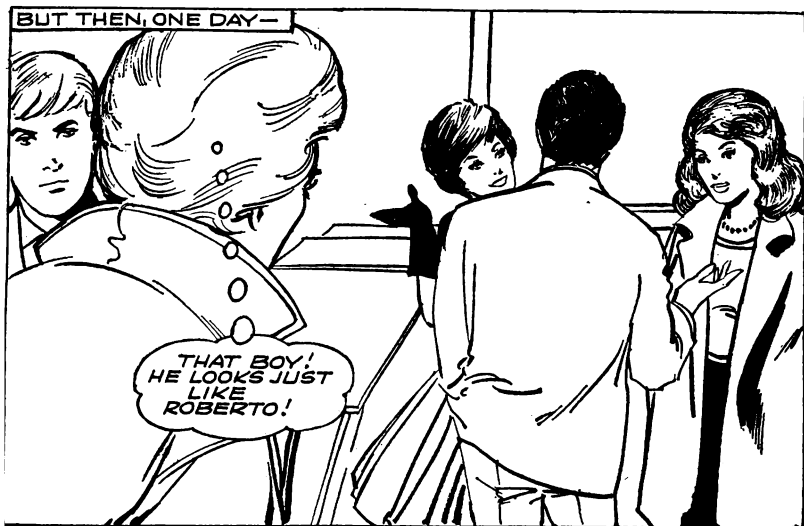
THANK
YOU, BILL

THE REST OF THAT SUMMER
DRIFTED SLOWLY BY, AND
THE CALL OF WINTER MATCHED
THE CHILL IN HELEN'S HEART



IT SEEMS LIKE
ANOTHER WORLD
WHEN I REMEMBER
THAT HOLIDAY
IN IBIZA

BUT THEN, ONE DAY—



THAT BOY!
HE LOOKS JUST
LIKE
ROBERTO!

HE TURNED AND SHE SAW
THAT IT **WAS** ROBERTO



HELEN - ARE
YOU I'LL? YOU'RE
AS WHITE AS
A SHEET!





FOR A WHILE BILL
STUDIED HER
INTENTLY - THEN
SLOWLY DREW AN
ENVELOPE FROM
HIS POCKET

I MUST HAVE KNOWN
I'D HAVE TO GIVE YOU THIS
SOMETIME. THAT'S WHY
I ALWAYS CARRIED IT
ABOUT. I HAVEN'T HAD
THE COURAGE TO TELL
YOU BEFORE



I CAN'T CHEAT
YOU ANY LONGER.
ROBERTO SENT
YOU THIS LETTER -
AND I KEPT IT
FROM YOU





SHE STOPPED ABRUPTLY
AS SOMETHING SUDDENLY
OCCURRED TO HER



THAT EVENING
HER FATHER
ADMITTED TO
HIS PART IN
BRINGING
ROBERTO TO
ENGLAND





AT THAT MOMENT THERE WAS A RING AT THE DOOR AND WHEN HELEN HAD OPENED IT-



GOLDLY, ROBERTO FACED THEM



ROBERTO EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL HAD LET THE INFORMATION SLIP BY ACCIDENT





ROBERTO BOWED STIFFLY



WHEN THE DOOR HAD CLOSED, HELEN
TURNED TO HER FATHER IN DISMAY







BUT HELEN COULD NOT
SHARE HER FATHER'S
CONVICTION, AND NEXT
DAY SHE WROTE A
LETTER TO THE SCHOOL,
SAYING SHE WOULD NOT
BE ATTENDING ANY
MORE CLASSES







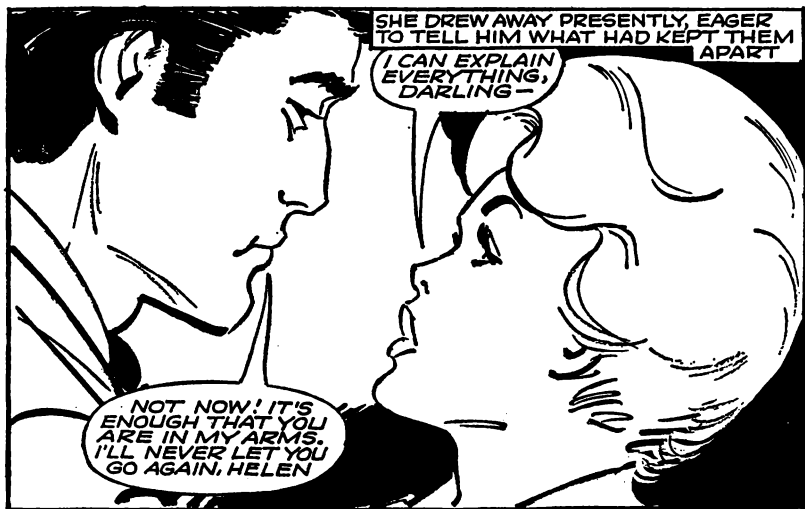


SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ADMITTED IT, BUT NOTHING COULD HAVE KEPT HER AWAY FROM THE GALLERY THAT EVENING



AS SHE GAZED AT THE PAINTING, A WAVE OF DELIGHT RAN THROUGH HER





AND WITH SINGING IN HER HEART,
SHE KNEW THAT HE NEVER
WOULD. LATER, SHE WOULD TELL
HIM EVERYTHING, BUT FOR THIS
MAGIC, BREATHLESS MOMENT,
ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THE
WONDERFUL LOVE THEY SHARED



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All this and more besides...

